

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE
AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T STATE 209860

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, BH, UK, GT

SUBJECT: BRITISH USE OF DULLES AND KEY WEST

PLEASE SEEK AN APPOINTMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH THE
APPROPRIATE GOG OFFICIAL AND MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS ASKED PERMISSION OF THE U.S.
GOVERNMENT TO REROUTE THE ROUTINE WEEKLY RAF LONDON-BELIZE
SUPPLY FLIGHT THROUGH DULLES AIRPORT OUTSIDE WASHINGTON,
D.C. WE UNDERSTAND THE REASON FOR THE REQUESTED CHANGE IS
THAT THE DULLES ROUTE PERMITS A MORE EFFICIENT USE OF
AIRCRAFT CREW. (THE FLIGHT NOW HAS TO OVERNIGHT IN BERMUDA
BUT WOULD MAKE ONLY A SHORT STOP AT DULLES TO CHANGE CREWS.)

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-- THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO REQUESTED THAT THE U.S.
GOVERNMENT GIVE PERMISSION FOR KEY WEST TO BE USED AS AN
EVACUATION POINT FOR THE FOUR REMAINING HARRIER AIRCRAFT
IN BELIZE IN CASE BELIZE WERE THREATENED BY A HURRICANE.
KEY WEST WOULD BE ONLY ONE OF THREE CONTINGENCY REFUGE
POINTS FOR THE HARRIERS; THE OTHERS ARE THE BAHAMAS AND

BERMUDA.

-- BECAUSE OF OUR CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WITH THE BRITISH, SIMILAR TO OUR CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WITH THE GOG, WE ARE APPROVING THESE REQUESTS, JUST AS WE ROUTINELY WOULD APPROVE GUATEMALAN REQUESTS FOR HURRICANE REFUGE AND DO APPROVE REQUESTS FOR TRANSITS. HOWEVER, WE WANT TO BE SURE THAT THE GOG IS FULLY AWARE OF THE BACKGROUND AND NATURE OF THESE REQUESTS.

-- PLEASE EMPHASIZE TO THE GOG THAT PERMITTING THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO USE U.S. FACILITIES AS DESCRIBED ABOVE REPRESENTS NO REPEAT NO CHANGE FROM OUR NEUTRAL POSITION ON THE ANGLO-GUATEMALAN DISPUTE OVER BELIZE. WE, OF COURSE, CONTINUE TO FAVOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT TO THE DISPUTE AND WE REMAIN READY TO EXCHANGE IDEAS WITH MEMBERS OF THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT AS THEY DESIRE.

FYI. WE ASSUME THE GOG WILL INTERJECT NO OBJECTION TO THE U.S. ALLOWING THE BRITISH TO USE OUR FACILITIES. HOWEVER, IF THE GOG WERE TO RAISE PROBLEMS, WE PLAN TO GO BACK TO THE BRITISH AND TELL THEM WE ARE PREPARED TO GRANT THEM PERMISSION TO USE DULLES AND KEY WEST, IF THEY STILL DESIRE IT IN LIGHT OF THE GUATEMALAN REACTION. END FYI. VANCE

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NNN

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